



12.07.2024

Issue No: 1129

The Link

# Charles Darwin School

Aspire - Endeavour - Achieve

## Headlines

### Step Live Dance Show

A huge thank you to Miss Winter for accompanying a group of Thrive Dance students to The Britten Theatre at the Royal College of Music on Wednesday. I heard it was a late end to a busy day, with staff and students returning to Bromley South train station just after 10 pm after participating in Step Live, Step into Dance's biggest celebration of the year. Students from Charles Darwin had been selected to take part along with 24 other schools from across London and Essex. Dance is such a powerful means of expression, and this event offered a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their talent and hard work. Well done to everyone involved.

### Sixth Form Alternative Sports Day

It was fantastic to see such commitment to a wide range of competitive activities, including a giant inflatables course, team skipping, putting, giant Jenga, cheerleading, and more at the sixth form alternative sports day on Thursday. Thank you to the sixth form team who made this memorable fun event possible for the students.



### Achievement Assemblies

It has been a pleasure to attend the achievement assemblies this week. I have been so proud to see our students receive commendations for a huge range of achievements reflecting what has overall been a fantastic year. My thanks to all the Achievement Co-ordinators, Form Tutors and the Pastoral Team for the incredible work they do with all our students and my congratulations to all those who received awards.

### Late start Monday 15th July

The school will start 1 hour later on Monday to allow families to enjoy the final of the Euros on Sunday evening.

Students will need to be in school for **9:15 am for registration at 9:30 am.**

**The 664 bus will run 1 hour later. The 684 will run to its usual timetable.**

Aston Smith, Headteacher

A reminder to parents that as well as the LINK and the 'latest news' section on the website, you can follow the latest events happening in our school community on:

CDarwinSchool



CDarwinSchool



Mr Jones

# School Uniform September 2024

Dear parents/carers

Please find attached a letter from Oz Schoolwear detailing how to book appointments at the shop for purchases over the summer holiday. Arriving without doing this could mean a long delay.

Please also see below a reminder of year group badge colours for September 2024. The same colour remains with the year group as they go through the school. Remember, every child should have a blazer with them in school every day and it is a compulsory item of school uniform. The school blue v-neck jumper is optional. Replacement badges and ties can be purchased from the school via Parent Pay to be collected from main reception before the end of term. A evidence of payment on a phone from your child/daughter will make collection easy. As last year, please try to purchase replacement ties/badges before the summer rather than wait until the first day back when limited supplies will be available.







Please also find attached Charles Darwin PE Kit requirements.

Many thanks in advance.

Mrs Rees

## Updated School Uniform from September 2024

Remember year groups keep the same colour badge  
as they go through the school.

		<b>Purple</b> <b>Year 7</b> <b>2024-25</b>
		<b>White</b> <b>Year 8</b> <b>2024-25</b>
		<b>Yellow</b> <b>Year 9</b> <b>2024-25</b>
		<b>Green</b> <b>Year 10</b> <b>2024-25</b>
		<b>Red</b> <b>Year 11</b> <b>2024-25</b>

**Price:**  
Tie - £5.40  
Badge - £6.20

## Reading Log Winners

Congratulations to the following students for winning the Reading Log competition in their respective English classes. The task was to demonstrate their journey as a reader this school year (which they did brilliantly). They challenged themselves to read different genres and saw their reading ages increase. Well done to you all. I look forward to finding out what you chose to read over the summer holidays.

Alice Boyd  
Elliott Leonard  
Lily Lewis  
Jack Pini  
Daisy Pointer  
Lily Ford



**Mrs Sharon Holloway**  
English Teacher & Head of KS3 English



## Apprentice 2024

Well done to Chloe Budd, Eliza Caka, Lily Lewis, Ava Reily and Elise Shotton for winning The Apprentice 2024 in class 8yEn1. They worked hard as a team to prepare and deliver an excellent final presentation on their product 'Prime Time', a watch that stops time so that you are never late for anything. I would definitely buy one if they existed in real life!

**Mrs Sharon Holloway**  
English Teacher & Head of KS3 English

## Year 11 Prom

Our Year 11 students went to their annual Prom on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June. Prom is a reward event for Year 11 students who meet the criteria in relation to attendance, punctuality, effort and behaviour.

It was a wonderful evening with dinner and dancing and a fantastic way to end a year of hard work. All the students looked wonderful and conducted themselves impeccably so it was hard to choose the prom king and queen but this year's winners were Seun Olawoyin and Issy Buck.

Thanks go to all the staff who came and helped with supervision so the evening ran smoothly including the Year 11 form tutors and to Mr Chubb for taking the photos. An enormous thank you should go to Mrs Gater who organised the event so well.

Thanks also to all the parents who came along to the front of school before the event and for all their efforts organising transport, clothes etc. It is always a spectacle and this year did not disappoint!

We have already booked next year's prom and are looking forward to seeing which students in the new Year 11 can rise to the challenge and meet the criteria and earn their place.



**Ms Kelly**



## Step Live Performance



On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, Thrive took part in the RAD's Step Live performance at the Britten Theatre at the Royal College of Music. The performers got to experience rehearsing and performing in a professional theatre, however, the most exciting thing was the dressing room because of the mirrors which had lights around the edge. The performers in Thrive have shown dedication and commitment to performing this year and have upheld the values of Charles Darwin School as we have visited other venues.

If you would like to join Thrive Dance Company next year then please come along to the information meeting on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September** at lunch time.

**Miss Winter**  
**Head of Dance**



Our next school production will be '**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**'. The musical version features songs from the original film as well as new numbers.

Auditions will be taking place early in September.

Students will be able to find out more about the audition process, sign up and collect audition material as soon as they return to school. The audition process will involve learning a short dance routine with everyone, and a short singing and acting audition. All of the audition material will be taken from 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'



If students would like to find out more about the show, we would encourage them to listen to the songs over the summer break on YouTube (search for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-Original London Cast Recording), watch the original film and read the Roald Dahl novel.

We are really looking forward to bringing this brilliant story to life and rising to the challenge of creating a chocolate river in the school hall. We hope to see lots of students signing up to be part of the production in September.

**Miss Currie**  
**Head of Drama**



## Year 11 Students: Unwanted Uniform or Revision Guides

If any of our year 11 students who have now finished have uniform that is in good condition that they would be prepared to donate, please leave it in main reception. We are always particularly short of larger sized blazers, but all donations would be gratefully received.

Likewise if you have revision guides that you no longer need and are happy to donate, please leave them in main reception and we will give them to students who need them.

**Ms Kelly**

**Pupil absence line: 01959 574043, option 1:**

Reminder – please can parents call the absence line each day of your child's absence before 8.30am. This ensures we know your child is safe and their absence is authorised where possible. Our Attendance Officer is having to spend an increased amount of time each day chasing for responses.

Thank you for your support.

# PTA Update

## Quiz Night

We have tentatively booked our next quiz night for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. More details to follow, including ticket sales, which will be available via our online shop, as soon as we can confirm: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

## Social Media

Please follow us on Social Media if you use any of our platforms. It is a great opportunity for us to share our updates directly and grow our network.

Instagram: [charles\\_darwin\\_pta](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friendscharlesdarwinschool>

X (formerly Twitter): [PTA\\_Darwin](#)

Linked In: [www.linkedin.com/in/charles-darwin-pta](http://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-darwin-pta)

## Monthly Draw

Our monthly draw will continue over the summer break. We have 150 tickets currently in the draw and look forward to announcing our next winner very soon.

If you would like to participate from just £1 per month, please visit our PTA online shop: <https://friends-of-charles-darwin-school.sumupstore.com>

- Half of the monthly draw money is donated to our PTA fund and half is added to the prize pot so it is a super opportunity to be in with a chance to win cash and support us, both at the same time!
  - You can either pay for your tickets monthly or for a full year.
- One of our monthly draw volunteers will contact you with your numbers once you enter.

## Easy-fundraising

Easy-fundraising donates money to our funds quarterly, just by shopping online! These funds really help towards projects requested by staff, which in turn benefits the learning experience for our kids and this is why we love it!

Have you enrolled yet and joined our community of 57?

Here are our top fundraisers for July as we went to press, which has completely changed since last week!

1. Melanie L £15.00
2. Sule M £3.61
3. Gill B £3.00
4. Jason H £2.47
5. Graham P £2.01

If you have already enrolled in Easy fundraising, please toggle or switch on the Donation Reminder and then donations will come through without you having to do a thing!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/charles-darwin-school-pta>

## Holidays

Please support your child's learning by not taking family holidays during term time. Holidays during term time will not be authorised and a penalty notice may be issued by the local authority.

**Student Services Team**



## Attendance

Congratulations to the following Tutor Groups who have the highest attendance for week ending 5 July 2024.



7NYe	94.6%
8PDg	97.1%
9OPa	95.7%
10JLa	93.8%
12JDa	97.1%

As you are aware attendance is linked to a student's attainment and at Charles Darwin we work closely with the parents to keep students' attendance levels as high as possible. Please could we ask that if your child feels unwell in the morning (headache etc.) and they do feel better later on, that you send them in. This will benefit them as they will not miss a whole days learning.

**Please can we also remind parents to call in before 8.30am for each day of your child's absence and not rely on receiving a text from us chasing their absence.**

A reminder that pupils **should not** contact home if they feel unwell but should be seen and assessed by Mrs Booth, our Health Care Lead.

Parents should be aware that pupils will not be sent home without being seen by Mrs Booth in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Students Services Team**

## First Aid

### Hay Fever Season - Medication for Students

Hay Fever and the symptoms for children studying at school can be very uncomfortable, please ensure that if your child suffers with Hay Fever that they take any relevant medication/antihistamine before school. The school is unable to provide this medication to students.

Parents should be advised that the school does not provide students with Paracetamol unless it is a medical emergency. We have a limited supply in school and prefer that medication wherever possible is administered at home.

Many thanks for your support.

**Mrs Booth  
Lead First Aid**

### Year 8 Duty Pupils

Maggie McCarthy  
Charlotte Weller  
Magnus Malcolmson

Freddie Cox  
Stanley Hillman  
Jake Sonatli



### Student Services Duty Pupils

Sonny Derring  
Alfie Baker  
James Reid  
Rakim Matata  
Jolyon Coombs  
Savannah Stitson

**They have been fantastic this week, and their help has been invaluable.**

CHARLES DARWIN DANCE

# THRIVE

## 24-25

**Mondays - 3:15 - 4:15**

**Information at lunch time:  
Monday 9th September**

**Auditions:  
Week Commencing  
Monday 16th September**

**Start date:  
Monday 23rd September  
Location: DA1**



## Dates for the Diary

### July

**15th July - Late start. Students will need to be in school for 9:15 am for registration at 9:30 am.**

**15th-20th July** - Trip: Year 8 MFL Residential Trip (coach and Eurotunnel)

**16th-18th July** - Trip: Year 8 History Trip to York (coach)

**17th July** - Trip: Development Theatre trip - Wicked - London Year's 8 & 9

**17th July** - Personal Development Day 1

Years 7-9: Enrichment activities off and on site

Year 10: Work shadowing (off site)

**18th July** - Personal Development Day 2

Years 7-9: Enrichment activities off and on site

Year 10: Mock interviews and Year 10 Speaking Assessment (English)

**19th July** - Lessons and Celebration of Success Assemblies Year 7-9

Year 10: Reflection and evaluation (remote)

**19th July** - End of term finishing times:

Year 9: 11:30am

Year 7: 12:30pm

Year 8: 12:45pm



**Bromley** Department for Education

## Summer Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food programme

[www.bromley.gov.uk/  
HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme)

## Summer programme

A free and exciting holiday programme for children and young people aged 5 to 16 in receipt of benefit-related free school meals. Take part in **sport, dance, robotics, race car driving, outdoor activities and much more** during the 2024 summer holiday. Free, nutritious meals will be provided for each session.

**Have fun with your friends, learn new skills, gain confidence and get involved!**

Funded by the Department for Education

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Images by Canva

# SUMMER

To find out which activities are near you and to sign up please visit:  
[www.bromley.gov.uk/  
HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme)

Or email  
[HolidayActivitiesandFood@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:HolidayActivitiesandFood@bromley.gov.uk)





# Term Dates 2024-2025

## **Autumn 2024**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

*Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

*Christmas Holiday: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January*

## **Spring 2025**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

*Half term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February*

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

*Easter Holiday: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April*

### **Notes:**

**Good Friday 18th April**  
**Easter Monday 21st April**

## **Summer 2025**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

*[Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May Bank Holiday]*

*Half term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May*

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

## **INSET Days:**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

All staff Trust Training Day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025



Foodbank in Bromley is able to offer clients a choice of 3 days worth of food along with a supermarket voucher or 7 days worth of food. This is for **Bromley Borough residents only**. For out of borough residents they are able to offer 3 days worth of food. Please remember you can get help by contacting them directly on [ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:ifo@bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk).



# COUNTRY FESTIVAL 2024

**SUNDAY 14TH JULY 11am to 5pm**

JOIN US AT OUR  
BIGGEST FUNDRAISING EVENT OF THE YEAR

- Arena acts
- Live music
- Hot food
- Dog show
- Inflatables
- Tearoom
- Beer tent
- Children's activities
- Variety of stalls

**Please bring cash, including small change**



Admission:  
**CASH only**  
**£15 per car**  
(up to 4 people)  
On foot: Family £15  
(up to 4 people)  
Adult £5  
Child £2.50 (3-17)

Foal Farm Animal Rescue  
Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, TN16 3AX

[www.foalfarm.org.uk](http://www.foalfarm.org.uk)  
Registered Charity Number 201654